

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An apparatus for facilitating location of an electrically conductive probe extending through a body passage, using a tool, the apparatus comprising:

a circuit which is normally open and which includes a signaling mechanism and power source for powering the signaling mechanism to generate a signal that can be perceived by a practitioner when the circuit is closed; and

means for attaching the circuit to conductive portions of the probe and the tool, the circuit being closed when the tool touches the probe to generate the signal.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the signaling mechanism generates at least one of an audible and a visual signal.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the means for attaching comprises a pair of clips.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the circuit comprises a pair of wires connected to the signaling mechanism, one of the pair of clips connected to each wire, and the power source being in one of the wires.

5. An apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the power source comprises a battery holder.

6. In a probe set and tool for use in canaliculus intubation of a lacrimal duct, the probe set having a probe for passing from a nasolacrimal duct to a nasal inferior meatus, the probe having an enlarged end portion, and a tool

to draw the probe from the lacrimal duct, the improvement comprising:

a circuit which is normally open and which includes a signaling mechanism and power source for powering the signaling mechanism to generate a signal that can be perceived by a practitioner when the circuit is closed; and

means for attaching the circuit to conductive portions of the probe and the tool, the circuit being closed when the tool touches the probe to generate the signal.

7. The improvement of claim 6, wherein the signaling mechanism generates at least one of an audible and a visual signal.

8. The improvement of claim 7, wherein the means for attaching comprises a pair of clips.

9. The improvement of claim 8, wherein the circuit comprises a pair of wires connected to the signaling mechanism, one of the pair of clips connected to each wire, and the power source being in one of the wires.

10. The improvement of claim 9, wherein the power source comprises a battery holder.

11. A method for facilitating location of an electrically conductive probe extending through a body passage, using a tool, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a circuit which is normally open and which includes a signaling mechanism and power source for powering the signaling mechanism to generate a signal that can be perceived by a practitioner when the circuit is closed; and

attaching the circuit to conductive portions of the probe and the tool, the circuit being closed when the tool touches the probe to generate the signal.

205053 50205001